

Name _____

- First time guest
- Returning guest
- Interested in baptism or membership
- Member

New Contact Information

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Opportunities to Serve

I plan to attend the weeknight Lenten study that featured dinner, a documentary, and discussion. I could:

- Attend 3D Nights on Tuesday nights (6:00-8:30)
- Help with at least one dinner for 3D Nights

Volunteer opportunities:

- Help serve at Saturday meal site.
- Be a part of a team that will adopt a family from World Relief.
- Help with games and activities at the Family Fun Day on March 16

Worship volunteers:

- Liturgist** – Assist Pastor with readings and communion during worship.
- Greeter** – Greet people at the West parking lot.
- 2nd & 4th Sunday Ushers** —Open the church for Sunday worship and make coffee. Take offerings in bank bag to bank depository.
- Counters** - Monday mornings, help take account of Sunday offering (Must be a member of the church in good standing for at least 6 months.)



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

From the beginning of the Jesus movement, followers of Christ declared that there is no Jew or Greek, no slave or free, nor is there male and female. We, the people of Two Rivers United Methodist Church join in this movement of the Holy Spirit and declare that we celebrate the diversity of our neighborhood and the world.

We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual and affectional orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We believe that the body of Christ is more vital in its ministry when the whole diversity of the human family may enjoy full participation and leadership in the Church.

We welcome all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in the Church and society, and acknowledge the pain caused by the exclusionary policies of the United Methodist Church. We will continue to work toward a more inclusive Church and invite you to join us in following Jesus Christ on the Way, marked by greater hospitality, kindness, justice, peace, understanding, and mutual respect.

Announcements for March 9, 2025

Swahili Sunday School—10:45 am in the Swahili Classroom

Adult Sunday School - 10:45 am in the Asbury Parlor

Youth/Kids Sunday School - 10:45 am in Fellowship Hall

Discipleship Schedule Monday Bible Study meets every Monday in Epworth Hall at noon (No Bible Study on March 10). Wednesday Prayer & Devotion Time meets on Facebook Live and Zoom at noon every week. Zoom Meeting ID # for Wednesday is 961 006 728. The Zoom meeting can also be joined by phone simply by dialing 312-626-6799. Once connected, dial the Meeting ID # 961 006 728, and you will join in the conversation.

3D Nights Starting **March 11** we will gather on Tuesdays at 6:00 for dinner, then begin a documentary to watch together, with discussion afterwards. The full schedule of 3D Night documentaries will be released shortly. The first will be an LGBTQ+ Allyship training on March 11. We will watch the livestream of the event that will take place at Hope Church in Bloomington, IL.

Family Fun Day Families from across the Quad Cities are invited to gather for an afternoon of worship, games, and family fun. Family Fun Day is **March 16 from 1:00-3:00 at Camp Milan Retreat Center**. My Anchor Holds will lead worship and leaders from many UM churches in the area will help with games, activities, and family-enhancing spiritual workshops. Parents, kids, and youth will have a great time and learn about ways they can enhance their Lenten journey together.

Online Giving



Follow us at @RITwoRivers



March 9, 2025 – First Sunday of Lent

Luke 10:25-42

A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to gain eternal life?”

Jesus replied, “What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?”

He responded, “*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.*”

Jesus said to him, “You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.”

But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus replied, “A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day, he took two full days’ worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, ‘Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.’ What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?”

Then the legal expert said, “The one who demonstrated mercy toward him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

While Jesus and his disciples were traveling, Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him as a guest. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his message. By contrast, Martha was preoccupied with getting everything ready for their meal. So Martha came to him and said, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to prepare the table all by myself? Tell her to help me.”

The Lord answered, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things. One thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the better part. It won’t be taken away from her.”

GATHERING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

PRELUDE “Make us Holy, Make us Whole” -Mark Friedman

GREETING

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 15) Liturgist: Dave Dehnel**

One: Who can live in your tent, Lord? Who can dwell on your holy mountain?

All: The person who lives free of blame, does what is right, and speaks the truth. Who does no damage with their talk, does no harm to a friend, doesn't insult a neighbor.

One: Who can live in your tent, Lord? Who can dwell on your holy mountain?

All: Someone who despises those who act wickedly, but who honors those who honor the Lord. Someone who keeps their promise even when it hurts. Someone who doesn't lend money with interest, and won't accept a bribe.

One: Whoever does these things won't stumble, Amen.

***HYMN #647 UMH “Your Love, O God, Has Called Us Here”**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of Mercy and Righteousness, walk with us on this Lenten journey of reflection and renewal. There are times when we need the reflective peace of darkness and rest. Wrap us in your blanket of love when we need to simply lie down. But there are times when we need a light to illumine our way and the fire of the Spirit to kindle in us a passion for renewal. Be with us in the light and the darkness, and help us to know when each is needed. This Lenten season, lead us through the darkness and the light to righteousness. In your undying mercy, grant us moments of reflection and renewal. Through your grace, empower us to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you.

<Pause for silent confession and reflection>

One: Hear the good news: God is slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and ever more merciful than we can imagine.

All: We are forgiven by - and for - mercy. Glory to God. Amen

*PASSING THE PEACE

PRAYER HYMN #256 UMH “We Would See Jesus” vs. 4

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

CHOIR ANTHEM “Wayfarin' Stranger” - Martin

PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

CHILDREN'S MOMENT #277 “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus” vs. 1

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Holy Spirit, bless the reading and hearing of this sacred text. Speak through these words and reveal to us the living Word of Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Luke 10:25-42 (CEB)

SERMON: “The one who showed mercy,” Robb McCoy

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

RESPONSE HYMN #548 “In Christ There is No East or West” vs. 1-3

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

MERCY IN POETRY, “The Good Samaritan,” by Adelbert Clark

***HYMN #121 UMH “There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”**

(All are invited to lace your offering and the detached part of the bulletin in the offering container atp the front of the sanctuary as we sing)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe that God is love, and that God's love is revealed in mercy and justice. Justice is God's will for the world to be righteous. It demands repentance, the righting of wrongdoing, the protection of the weak, and the distribution of resources. Mercy is God's compassion, forgiveness, and loving kindness that restores community, reconciles relationships, and returns people to wholeness. These two, mercy and justice, work together to restore Creation to shalom.

I believe in the mercy of the Samaritan, who showed compassion by bandaging the wounds of the stranger and paying for his care. I believe in the mercy shown to Mary and Martha, both invited into deeper relationship with Jesus.

I believe in the mercy of Christ, who challenges small-minded notions of neighborhood, and invites us all into the Kingdom of God. Amen.

***DOXOLOGY #94 UMH**

***BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

POSTLUDE “Hornpipe” *from “Watermusic”* - G.F. Handel

**=please rise if you are able*

UMH = United Methodist Hymnal. You can use the red books in front of you. Music used with permission under CCLI License:

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK OF 3/9/2025

Your Name _____

Prayers for our Church and its ministry:

Prayers for people I know:

I have permission to publish this prayer.

I do not have permission to publish this prayer.

Prayers for the community/world:

Prayers for myself:
